

# Routes to tour in Germany

## The Castle Route



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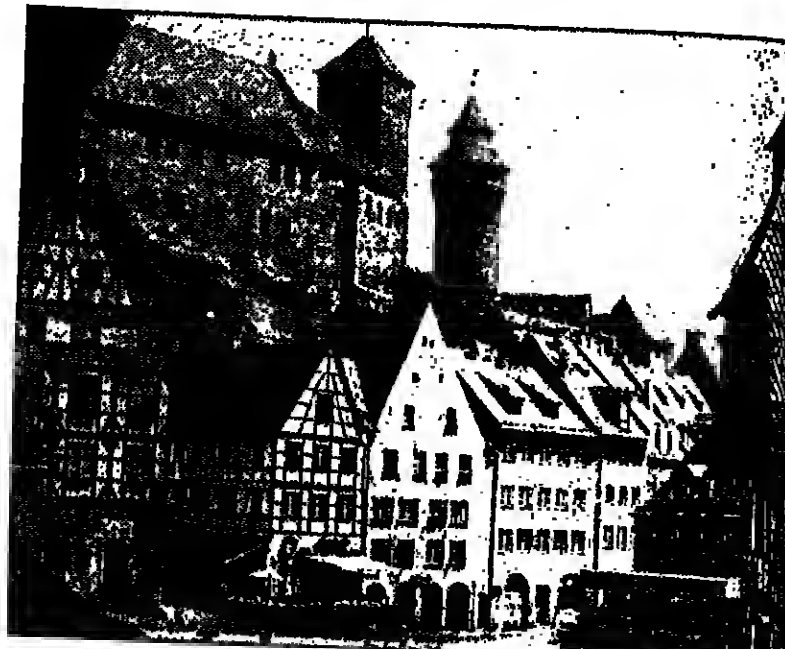
The Castle Route is 200 miles long. It runs from Mannheim, an industrial city on the Rhine with an impressive Baroque castle of its own, to Nuremberg, the capital of Bavarian Franconia. The tour should take you three days or so. We recommend taking a look at 27 castles en route and seeing for yourself what Germany must have looked like in the Middle Ages. The mediaeval town of Rothenburg ob der Tauber is intact and unspoilt. Heidelberg is still the city of the Student Prince. In Nuremberg you really must not miss the Albrecht Dürer House.

Come and see for yourself the German Middle Ages. The Castle Route will be your guide.

- 1 Gündelsheim/Neckar
- 2 Heidelberg
- 3 Nuremberg
- 4 Rothenburg/Tauber



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# The German Tribune



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## Genscher tells Moscow to accept Geneva proposals

Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has reiterated his plea to the Kremlin to take up the Western proposals at the Geneva talks on medium-range missiles. Addressing the UN General Assembly, Genscher made no mention of Gorbachev's latest statement — for reasons. He failed to see it as a direct reply to President Reagan's address to the General Assembly and to the US latest Geneva proposals. And, he felt the statement was in more for domestic consumption or attention by Western public.

"A Soviet monopoly in land-based medium-range missiles," he noted in this connection, "is something we cannot accept."

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UN of the two German states, was in keeping with the line consistently taken by the Bonn government and its predecessors.

One of its keynotes was the declared intention of continuing the course of cooperation and détente, is worth noting that Bonn continues to use the term "détente" whereas it seems to have been expunged from US political vocabulary for the time being.

Another was the express emphasis that recognition of Soviet security interests was accompanied by a demand for acknowledgement of the West's need for security.

"A Soviet monopoly in land-based medium-range missiles," he noted in this connection, "is something we cannot accept."

This is an outlook Bonn has long and consistently held. It makes Bonn government policy predictable in every way.

That is a point Moscow ought to be prepared to acknowledge and to honour, as a majority of the Community of nations has seen fit to do.

Herr Genscher was given more than polite applause by the General Assembly.

## Removal of border death-strip weapons 'marks no change'

The news that automatic shrapnel guns on the GDR's side of its border with the Federal Republic were being dismantled sounded sensational.

There were hopes it might mark the beginning of a less inhuman division of the country. But such hopes were sadly mistaken.

The unusual way in which the news



Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (right) with American Secretary of State George Shultz. They were in New York for the opening of the United Nations general assembly, where Genscher made a speech. (Photo: dpu)

bly for repeatedly using the terms "cooperation" and "détente."

He did so not merely in respect of East-West ties but also with a view to relations between North and South and in his plea not to transfer the clash between the two major military blocs to the Third World.

His address was thus very much in keeping with the anniversary on which it was made. It well deserved to be read carefully in Moscow in particular: read, appreciated and borne in mind.

Dietrich Möller  
(Rheinische Post, 30 September 1983)

## Kohl prepares his brief on missiles issue

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl wants the Bundestag to endorse the stationing of Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles in Germany in a debate on 21 November.

The Social Democrats are already opposed to the idea. They feel it would be wrong to reach a decision on the missiles as long as the Geneva talks are still in progress.

Yet stationing them is part of the Nato plan of action drawn up in 1979, when Social Democrats Helmut Schmidt and Hans Apel were respectively Chancellor and Defence Minister in Bonn.

So the Opposition may find the former Chancellor and his Defence Minister called in evidence against it, as it were.

The timing is not alone in being controversial. Doubts have been voiced whether a mere majority vote in the Bundestag would be sufficient to justify stationing the new missiles in Germany.

Some call for legislation, others for a constitutional amendment. Root-and-branch opponents of "missile modernisation" argue that there can be no legal basis, merely an obligation to offer resistance.

So the clashes have only just begun. They will grow more heated, especially outside Parliament. That is why it is all the more important for the Bundestag to stand by the original concept.

So far Nato and Bonn have stood by the dual-track policy of arms limitation talks and missile modernisation.

It is a matter not only of urging both Moscow and Washington to come to terms but also of being prepared to take appropriate action if the talks break down.

Siegfried Maruhn  
(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 1 October 1983)



The German-German thaw.  
(Cartoon: Hans/Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger)

Self-shooting devices removed from border — page 4

was released from Munich regrettably tended to make it more difficult to assess the position accurately.

Germans in the GDR continue to be refused the right to travel and live where they want. The East Berlin government still keeps them locked up to prevent them from voting with their feet on so-called real socialism.

The means the GDR leaders use to prevent escapes from East Germany to freedom are a secondary consideration. It goes without saying that East Berlin is keen to keep a low profile.

The Wall, the death strip and electric fence unmask the true nature of the political system that feels obliged to rely on them to such an appalling extent that the GDR authorities are eager to improve their outward appearance.

Such "security arrangements" have been perfected to such a degree that East Berlin may now feel the automatic guns that so openly testify to contempt for humanity are dispensable.

Any reduction can but be welcomed, but optical improvements to what is still a lethal system are not enough. The order to shoot escapers still applies.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 September 1983)



## WORLD AFFAIRS

## Central Europe troop-cut talks, the forgotten negotiations

Mutual balanced force reduction, or troop cuts in Central Europe, is an idea that has been going the rounds for 24 years. The MBFR talks in Vienna have been under way for the past 10.

Tangible results have yet to occur for people in Europe despite talks held by Nato and Warsaw Pact countries at the Hofburg in the Austrian capital since 30 October 1973.

The troops in line for cuts are those stationed in the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg in the West and in the GDR, Poland and Czechoslovakia in the East.

They include both these countries' own armed forces and allied troops stationed there, such as British and Canadian, US and Soviet troops.

MBFR terms of reference apply only to land and air forces, not to marines, border guards or paramilitary units. The arms and equipment of such forces are not at issue either.

France is not represented at the talks, but its forces in Germany are tacitly included in the MBFR terms of reference.

The idea originated with a November 1959 proposal by Helmut Schmidt, in those days a young Social Democrat Bonn MP, for a policy aimed at establishing an arms limitation and control zone in Central Europe.

In those days it was a novel idea that broke with a taboo in post-war Europe in viewing arms limitation in Central Europe separately from the German Question.

It no longer linked readiness to make troop cuts with the demand for progress toward German reunification.

Useful and fascinating though the consent was, a further 14 years were to elapse until East and West by dint of joint endeavour came to terms on the legacy of the Second World War such as would pave the way for talks on arms limitation in Europe.

In other words, the political groundwork had first to be laid before talks about troop strengths could be held, including US readiness to recognise the Soviet Union as its superpower equal.

This groundwork also included a conscious decision by Bonn to come to terms with the division of Europe, and Germany, as an established fact acknowledged in treaties.

The one was laid by President Nixon and Secretary of State Kissinger, especially in the Salt talks with the Soviet Union; the other by the Ostpolitik of the Social and Free Democratic coalition in Bonn.

What then happened came as a surprise. In 1973 the Soviet Union entered the MBFR talks with aggressive, offensive political objectives, whereas the West from the outset went on to the defensive.

The Kremlin pursued three main aims: to establish that a balance already existed in the MBFR area, to prevent the Federal Republic from gaining too great a military clout by Soviet standards and to reduce the American military presence in Europe so as to loosen the ties between North America and Western Europe.

The Atlantic alliance in contrast was faced by the temptation felt by a number of Nato countries to reduce troop strengths unilaterally.

Above all, there was the danger of a unilateral reduction in the number of US troops stationed in Europe, a proposal long associated with the name of Senator Mike Mansfield.

So Nato governments used the East-West talks first and foremost as a means of enforcing discipline within the alliance.

Only secondarily were they interested in ending the troop strength superiority they felt Eastern MBFR countries enjoyed, especially the Soviet Union, and in then striking a balance at a perceptibly lower level.

This complete contrast in the two sides' negotiating positions found visible expression in the data dispute. It remained unresolved and keenly contested by arms control experts civilian and military on both sides.

According to Western estimates the Warsaw Pact has about 150,000 more men stationed in the MBFR area than it has so far admitted to.

The Kremlin with its pathological inclination toward secrecy has greatly aided those in the West who have talked in terms of troop cuts but never seriously considered coming to terms with the Russians on force reductions of any relevance for military security.

The East did not see fit to reply to the estimates submitted by the West until

three years after the Vienna talks had begun.

It claimed in 1976 there were land and air forces in the Warsaw Pact countries totalling 987,300 men, including 805,000 members of the land forces.

These figures differ considerably from Western estimates of East Bloc troop strengths. According to the West the Warsaw Pact has 1,163,000 men under arms in the countries in question, including 972,000 members of the land forces.

Bids to free the MBFR talks from the trammels of the data debate by means of accompanying measures have so far been to no avail.

These are mainly envisaged as advance notice of manoeuvres and limitation of their size and the like.

They are ideas borrowed from the Helsinki CSCE debate and aimed mainly at reducing mistrust, fostering political confidence-building and alleviating fears of a surprise attack.

But such ideas, put forward by the West since 1979, have failed to make headway, and unless all the signs are misleading the same fate lies in store for the latest ideas submitted by the experts.

In place of agreement on initial data they now envisage a procedure by which both sides initially reduce their

troop strength to 900,000 and embark on verification. This, it is argued, would East to eliminate the imbalance which it continues to refuse without having owned up to conference table.

It is, moreover, doubtful whether the Soviet Union would really effective mode of verification unhindered on-the-spot Western military men would too keen on the idea either.

Preparations will shortly Stenholm for the Confidence-and-Measures and Disarmament Conference.

It dates back to a Franco-German taken up and approved by the review conference in Madrid. Itally aimed at further confidence-building measures by the terms of the 1973

These existing confidence measures include voluntary reduction of major military units and the exchange of officers.

They are to be joined by measures that will no longer be binding, militarily significant.

They are also to extend to Europe, from the Atlantic to the field to the play instead of this project should hold prospects of success in talks in Vienna.

Merging the MBFR with Stockholm conference would even better idea.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung)

## HOME AFFAIRS

## Unfulfilled economic hopes dash CDU chances in State polls

State elections in Hesse and Bremen they laid the blame on the popularity of Helmut Schmidt and sympathy over the way he had been toppled from power in Bonn. Schmidt campaigned actively in that election.

They can't blame Schmidt this time. So the result is a bitter one. Hesse's Social Democrats used none of the national issues in their campaign. Bömer was spared having to deal with any of the national problems that have aroused the public's emotions. He said nothing about the deployment of new missiles and steered clear of security issues in general.

He did not need to say anything about the nation's economic problems, unemployment, cutbacks in social welfare, and the steel, coal and shipyard crises. It is not his but Bonn's business to deal with these matters.

Issues that once caused the Hesse SPD problems such as nuclear waste processing and the extra runway for Frankfurt airport are problem no longer.

Bömer was therefore able to concentrate entirely on what had become his leitmotif: to get a clear majority in the Hesse assembly (no one at the moment can claim an absolute majority of seats).

Hesse is economically better off than most other states and has been a Social Democratic bastion for 37 years.

But Bömer failed. He remains the caretaker prime minister with limited powers, more or less a man on probation who has to corner majorities on each individual issue.

Wallmann, a conciliatory man, fought the contest on personalities. He did not benefit from any bonus in Bonn. The disenchanted with Bonn's austerity policy was a handicap.

No other can build an absolute majority with the help of a coalition partner nor prevent a SPD-Green coalition, which is theoretically still possible.

The Free Democrats owe their return to the State assembly not to the voters' fascination with the liberals but to a miscalculation of the CDU.

The CDU gave a kiss of life by urging the electorate to support the FDP. Without this the FDP would have suffered the same defeat in Hesse as in Bremen, where they were beaved out of the assembly.

But an FDP fiasco in Hesse could have shaken the very foundations of the coalition in Bonn. Wallmann's sacrifice paid off in Bonn.

But if the FDP survives below the national level only by CDU charity it will

that by no means justifies the responding with a lack of confidence of its own.

Reagan was civil and courteous at UN General Assembly, and Europeans have much to be grateful to him for this count.

It is merely a mode of behaviour and no substitute for political action. It doesn't amount to a political framework within which the Soviet might be prepared to reconsider some terms.

You expect of the Geneva talks opportunity of blaming the Soviet for failure of the negotiations you might well make do with the notion of civility and technicalness to reach a compromise.

If you are reluctant to abandon a negotiated settlement you would forth the prospect of it being really worth Moscow's while to over its own shadow for once.

Christoph Bertram (Die Zeit, 30 September 1983)



A jubilant Bömer after the Hesse election. (Photo: dpa)

It is not this but another, more important, weakness that an analysis of Kohl's policy shows: lack of leadership.

The Chancellor took office without a great stock of ideas. All he brought was a pragmatic work concept.

Helmut Kohl made a point of maintaining continuity in his foreign policy and his *Deutschlandpolitik*, which boosted his international image.

But there were no sweeping vistas in his austerity policy, the cutbacks in social security and his economic concepts that were supposed to have been the essence of the vaunted about-turn.

The public disputes over the right approach between the top men of the coalition fueled the impression of Kohl's indecisiveness and detracted from his image.

The disappointment with Kohl is most noticeable within his own party and its sympathisers.

Much of what he does differs from former Chancellor Schmidt's policy only in dosage and the manner of presentation.

Schmidt also wanted to cut back on social benefits but was unable to push this through his own party.

A balance sheet of Kohl's policy shows that it is most effective in internal security where Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann (CSU) reigns supreme.

But in that field, the conservatives satisfy only their own followers. They don't win sympathy from any outsiders.

With it all, Kohl's position is undisputed. There is no rival in sight.

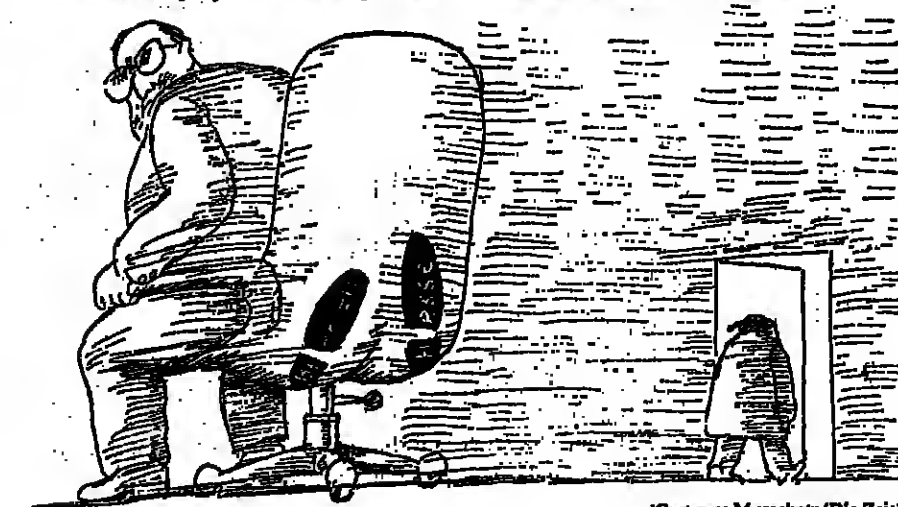
Unlike the CDU, the SPD leadership can draw encouragement from the outcome of the two state elections.

But it should realise that the conditions that earned Bömer his success cannot be applied to the national SPD, where the very problems that were important in Hesse play a major role: security, economic and social policy. It is here that the Social Democrats have failed to correct the diffuse image that has existed since their national election defeat in March.

Nothing will change as long as Party Chairman Willy Brandt and parliamentary leader Hans-Jochen Vogel give priority to keeping the party together rather than drafting a clear policy that could put them back in Bonn.

The Hesse election outcome was a bitter lesson for the Kohl-Genscher coalition and an unmerited encouragement for the Social Democrats.

But this has in no way changed national perspectives. The danger lies in the possibility that the country's two major parties will draw wrong conclusions from the Hesse election — one year after the change in Bonn. Kurt Becker (Die Zeit, 30 September 1983)



(Cartoon: Murschütz/Die Zeit)

## Reagan brings new impetus to Geneva bargaining table

President Reagan, under pressure from the Bonn government, among others, has given the Geneva talks on medium-range missiles a fresh stimulus. They had been merely marking time.

His foremost and most interesting concession is that America no longer insists on establishing an on-the-spot counterweight to Soviet nuclear weapons in Europe.

Providing the Russians were to agree to a worldwide limitation and reduction in intermediate-range nuclear forces America, he said, would not seek to station missiles in Europe to strike a balance with the entire Soviet arsenal.

This formula, which it is now up to the US and Soviet negotiators in Geneva to sound out, is deliberately couched in vague terms.

It is primarily aimed at the Soviet SS-20 arsenal in Asia and intended to oblige Moscow, which has constantly refused to negotiate on its missile launching pads in Asia at Geneva.

Theoretically, President Reagan's formula even allows of a more generous interpretation. It could be taken to mean that the Soviet Union was tacitly being allowed to retain a missile advantage in Asia in return for dropping its constant clamour for the British and French missiles to be included in the Geneva talks.

America has no intention of renouncing its right to station medium-range nuclear missiles in the Far East but it does not necessarily propose to implement this right.

Does this mean Mr Reagan has pushed open a back door to compromise? Despite the latest American proposals that isn't the way it looks.

The Soviet Union has not made play with British and French missiles for their own sake; its clear aim has been to block the stationing of any new US missiles in Europe.

That is an unacceptable state of affairs for both the United States and its allies, and Mr Reagan's latest proposal leaves no doubts on this score.

So the gap between the sides' negotiating positions remains a gaping chasm. Once only, in July 1982 when the Geneva 'walk in the woods' compromise was mooted, has it looked as though Moscow wanted to allow the West to station at least a limited number of new US missiles in Western Europe.

But the Kremlin's attitude has since grown steadily tougher. Thus, the Soviet news agency, dismissed the Reagan proposal even before its details were formally announced as "smelling strongly of the old and hated pseudo-zero option."

Might the Geneva talks nonetheless end in compromise? Fundamental differences cannot be bridged by purely technical concessions.

There is a popular call for the world powers to show greater mobility in Geneva, but bridges are not built by moving to and fro on either side of the river.

There has been no lack of movement

of this kind in Moscow and Washington either.

What America continues to do is nothing entirely different, but with a political outlook that makes the Kremlin feel uncomfortable.

In the past Washington has been too prone to resort to stopgap, sporadic actions: wheat shipments, tense tension, arms control ban on political communication.

There has always been the intensified arms built-up and the of economic sanctions being used.

These may worry Moscow, but are hardly designed to establish a minimum of confidence needed for the Mr Andropov and his associates to bank on cooperation with negotiations from the United States.

True, the Russians bear responsibility for shaking the conditions of confidence on which the ties must be based.

Their all-out arms build-up

Continued on page 1

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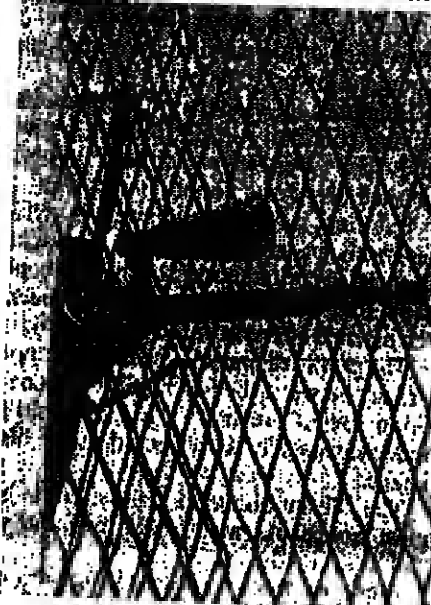
## Some self-shooting devices removed from border zone

East Germany has begun to dismantle some of the 54,000 automatic shooting devices along the intra-German border. But what remains is still a near impenetrable system of minefields and watchtowers.

This process, however, is going hand in hand with a propaganda attempt to give the Wall an element of respectability.

Using a brochure with a spider as cover picture, the GDR has now launched a massive drive to justify the Wall and the death strip along the 1,378.1 km border that separates the two Germanies.

According to the official GDR inter-



The SM 70 automatic shooting device as used on the border.

pretation, the flight of more than one million of its citizens before 13 August 1961 (when the Wall was built) and of close to 200,000 who have braved the minefields and the automatic shooting devices since then was the work of "gangsters and bounty hunters."

Since 1945, the brochure says, these people have sowed uncertainty among the population and sowed the "label of human tragedy" on escapees, "wrapping the whole thing in the glossy paper of human rights hypocrisy."

The current campaign is not the first attempt by East Berlin to criminalise the mass exodus from Germany to Germany.

In 1944, when the victorious Allied forces decided to divide the German Reich into occupation zones, they drew the borders between the British and American zones on the one hand and the Soviet zone on the other along this old provincial border lines.

The guard duty along the demarcation lines originally rested with the occupying powers.

There is no known instance of Soviet troops having deliberately shot Germans who illegally crossed the demarcation line.

After firing warning shots, the guards arrested people, detained them for a few hours or days in the basement of the local military headquarters.

This changed from one moment to the next when the Soviets turned the guard functions over to the "armed officials" of the GDR, which was founded in 1949.

This was when the systematic scaling off of the East German people from the West began.



GDR parlance reflected the developments along the intra-German border in the terminology used for people moving between East and West. The border crossers of the immediate post-war years became "barrier crashers" and, later, "tunnel diggers" — people who used bravado and ingenuity in their bid to escape.

Since it began building the Wall in 1961, East Berlin has established a death strip along the entire border separating it from West Germany.

The past 22 years have seen the creation of a formidable security system that has been technically updated from year to year. The idea behind it was to prevent East Germans from voting with their feet.

As of 30 June 1983, this system consisted of a heavy metal fence along 1,281.8 kilometres, a double barbed wire fence along 47.7 kilometres, a protective strip with electric alarm devices that are triggered by touching them along 1,160.8 kilometres, 190.1 kilometres of minefields and 428.5 kilometres of the SM70 and NS501 type.

Each of these devices packs 110 sharp-edged, cube-shaped projectiles with dum-dum properties.

This means that anybody hit by these projectiles is likely to sustain irreparable injuries, as shown by the records of West German surgeons who attended to victims.

Not only does the device violate the human rights conventions signed by the GDR (UN human rights provisions and the Helsinki Final Act). It also violates international law.

Like the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic is a legal successor of the Reich, which signed the Hague Convention barring the use of dum-dum ammunition.

East Berlin has never withdrawn from the Convention, which was signed in 1899 and 1901.

In addition, 29.5 kilometres of the border has concrete barrier walls (the fl-



A section of the border between the GDR and the Federal Republic. Self-shooting devices and dog patrol areas are part of the system. Note double fence at right.

(Photos: dpa)

gure applies only to the immediate vicinity of the border and not to the barriers further inland. There are 831.8 kilometres of ditches to prevent vehicles from passing. Of these, 589.2 kilometres are fortified.

There are 1,335.5 kilometres of roads for the border guard vehicles, of which 1,278.6 kilometres are fortified.

There are light-barriers along 84.6 kilometres and dog runs for the border guards' 1,131 dogs. There are 794 pill-boxes/trenches, of which 587 are made of concrete.

The border has 669 concrete watchtowers, 55 of wood or steel, plus 35 observation posts.

Escapees who have been lucky enough to pass this formidable security system still have to get through the so-called "Stollin lawn" immediately behind the metal fence. This consists of steel masts three metres wide studded with 10 to 20cm steel spikes.

On top of all this, the hinterland (about 500 metres before getting to the actual demarcation line) has its own protective barbed wire fence. And then there is a zone about four to five kilometres from the border with electric alarm devices and booby traps of various kinds.

The security system around West Ber-

lin encompasses 1,657 kilometres, 110.8 kilometres consist of concrete blocks 1.2 metres high. This is supported by systems similar to those along the border.

Of the 191,559 people who completed their vocational training, 110.8 kilometres consist of concrete blocks 1.2 metres high. This is supported by systems similar to those along the border.

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## THE THIRD WORLD

## Volunteer aid service gets to grips at grass roots



Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst German Development Service was founded 20 years ago to serve nations.

It was modelled on the American Corps and the development aid missions of the churches. The city voluntary helpers were meant to supplement official development aid.

More than 6,500 development helpers with more than 100 special skills have worked overseas for two or more years.

850 people are working now in countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America and in the UN volunteer programme.

It accepts only applicants who completed their vocational training. It gives preference to those who already had some working experience. In this way, it differs from the other peace corps.

Development aid work calls for much more. Work in the poorest countries is hardship, adjustment and coping with unexpected difficulties.

Pay is very low by the standards of an affluent country like Germany. Volunteers receive DM995 a month and in some cases a cost of living allowance.

The government provides DM2,500 as cost of equipment and an allowance on the return home, to help out with employment in found.

This has repeatedly led to difficulties. In Islamic countries, for example, where female development helpers were assigned tasks that did not fit Islamic ideas of a woman's role in society.

It has often proved very difficult to overcome problems tactfully. DED has made a point of steering clear of a paternalistic attitude.

In taking stock of the past 20 years, DED is realistic enough to accept the fact that it has not achieved a grand partnership between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Third World. But it has imparted some impetus to development there.

Glinter De Thier (Rheinische Post, 3 September 1983)

When DED was founded, Bonn did share President Kennedy's view that

this type of peace service should help reform society at home.

The "New Frontier" Kennedy envisaged at the time was not a German objective in the 1960s.

During the founding ceremony of DED, the then Chancellor Konrad Adenauer is said to have asked the person sitting next to him: "Would you send your child to such a place?"

Germany's bureaucracy saw no point in using public funds to finance a movement whose members would later sow unrest in their own country.

Here is what the Bonn Foreign office is said to have thought: "Helped by German embassies and missions abroad, young idealists are to go to developing countries of all places to look for Romanticism's Blue Flower."

This shows that the government feared that returning development helpers could turn into a politically irritating group of peaceful revolutionaries who could use their personal experiences in the developing countries to meddle in official development policy.

DED's stance, on the other hand, was that the development helpers would contribute towards the learning process of German society and bring about a development policy that would be geared to the interests of the people in the Third World and respect their values.

Its aim, the argument went, was not to provide charity but to cooperate on a partnership basis without wanting to graft European ideas on to Third World societies.

Cultures and customs of the Third World peoples had to be respected.

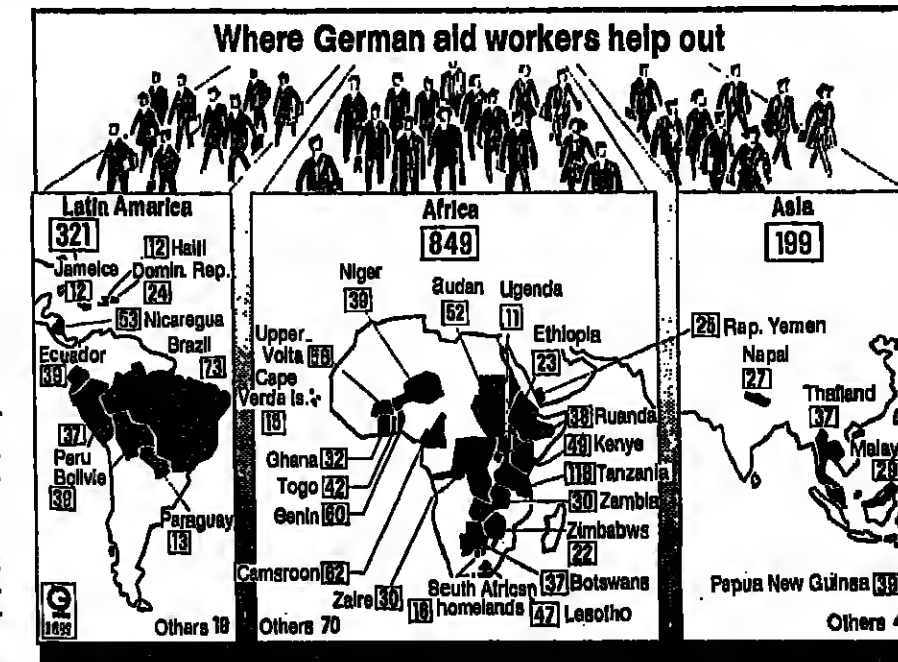
This has repeatedly led to difficulties. In Islamic countries, for example, where female development helpers were assigned tasks that did not fit Islamic ideas of a woman's role in society.

It has often proved very difficult to overcome problems tactfully. DED has made a point of steering clear of a paternalistic attitude.

In taking stock of the past 20 years, DED is realistic enough to accept the fact that it has not achieved a grand partnership between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Third World. But it has imparted some impetus to development there.

Glinter De Thier (Rheinische Post, 3 September 1983)

When DED was founded, Bonn did share President Kennedy's view that



## EEC nations agree to change Lomé Convention priorities

EEC nations have agreed to change development aid priorities. The decision was made at a meeting in Berlin between the EEC and nations of ACP (African, Caribbean, Pacific).

The meeting of the consultative assembly of the EEC-ACP, was to prepare the ground for the third Lomé Convention negotiations this month in Luxembourg.

The Lomé Convention governs eco-



economic relations between the EEC and nations in Africa, the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean.

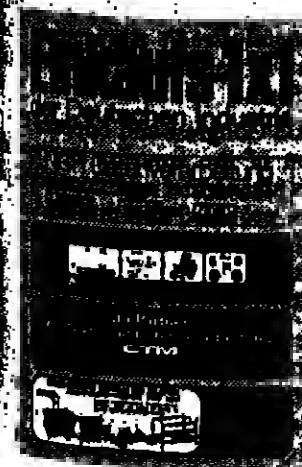
Sixty three ACP countries were represented by 252 delegates at the Berlin meeting, held in the Berlin Reichstag.

The European Community will enter the Luxembourg negotiations with the avowed intention to pay more attention than hitherto to the individual needs of the ACP countries and to concentrate Community aid on agriculture and food production.

No concrete figures as to the amount of money to be provided by the EEC during the five-year period of Lomé III (1985 to 1990) were given in Berlin.

F. Diederichs (Dts. Welt, 24 September 1983)

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## FINANCE

## New facts of life force change in IMF role

At the talk at the International Monetary Fund conference in Washington was not for the layman. The financial technicalities were too involved for that.

But as cabinet ministers, central bank heads and other high-powered experts swapped their unintelligible, they themselves missed the point.

It must have amused former German economics minister Karl Schiller, whose international reputation in the field (he is a former head of the Club of Rome) makes him a welcome guest at conferences such as these.

For the meeting talked about the "enlarged access" to IMF resources to the point where it forgot to discuss new allocations of the IMF's artificial money, the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).

But there is a certain American strategy behind this. The IMF, which about a dozen years ago had to abolish its system of fixed exchange rates, losing its true raison d'être in the process, has progressively become an instrument with which to avert failure to pay debts.

Whenever and wherever financial disaster looms, the fund is expected to — and does — act as the fire brigade.

Last year, it bailed out oil-rich Mexico with the help of the industrial countries' declining foreign exchange reserves. Now, it is Brazil that is crying for help.

Debtors rely on the IMF for a bailout, but the fund depends on the industrial nations for funds.

When central banks of industrial countries accept SDRs this waters down their foreign exchange reserves. In essence it means an additional loan to the fund.

But the IMF is in no position to act

as the central bank for its 146 member nations.

It was founded in July 1944, as a means of warding off economic and financial calamities like those of the early 1930s and to ensure stable exchange rates.

The fact that the Americans have adopted a tougher attitude than the Europeans and that they are for the moment putting some sand in the international debt machinery is not purely a negative trend.

With the delay in approving the eighth increase in contributions, (which is due more to Congress than to the US Administration) and the sophisticated mathematics of the "enlarged access", the Americans signalled caution for the future.

Those who, like the commercial banks that are worried about the repayment of their loans, now oppose this tough stance should remember how much criticism there was earlier when the IMF was, rightly, accused of promoting world-wide inflation and hence unemployment.

It is true that the Americans lack the ability to differentiate. On the one hand they are considering refinancing several hundred billion dollars worth of unpaid Latin American debts for the sake of their own commercial banks. On the other they haggle with the World Bank (which is concerned with the poorest countries) over whether the member nations should boost its lending resources by US\$8.8bn or US\$12 bn.

The whole thing is rather ridiculous, and in any event the American signal has come too late.

The world has allowed the debt crisis to arise, and the relatively easy access to IMF funds is one of the reasons for the fact that 40 countries have declared themselves insolvent.

Rescheduling operations have become fashionable in an era when many people would like to revert to the gold standard as a regulatory mechanism against the constantly rising money supply.

But now matter how one twists and turns things: nothing goes anymore without the IMF (which is spiritual father, John Maynard Keynes, never wanted to become an auxiliary economic government for 40 rescheduling candidates).

The West's financial system was strong enough two years ago to cope with Poland's debt. But this involved a maximum of US\$28bn. But will it also be able to cope with Brazil's US\$90bn and the US\$20bn to US\$40bn each of the larger Latin American countries?

It will probably have to cope. A package deal for Brazil is already being prepared.

That more a debtor owes the stronger his position. Nobody can afford to let such a country down — especially in view of the possibility that the country in debt will simply refuse to honour its debts, a distinct possibility in the case of Brazil.

All that can be done is to gain time. But the hopes that are pinned on this extra time are as surprising as the fact that top international banks have lent their depositors' money to shifty customers.

The economic upturn that is clearly in evidence now will rectify many problems, some say.

Maybe it will. But considering the size of the debts, such a hope seems unwise.

Still, nobody will plunge into an abyss; and that is all that counts — for the moment.

Franz Thoma

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 September 1983)

## Let us export, says Central America banker

tended to revitalise the various national economies.

The united stand in Brussels of the six Central American countries — which otherwise pursue conflicting policies — showed their determination to join forces in bringing about economic and social progress.

Mena, who said that his bank would continue to offer its services as a co-ordinating and clearing institution, urged the immediate neighbours of the six Central American countries and Europe, North America and Japan to help improve the trade deficits of the Central American nations by opening their markets.

It seems that the most hopes are pinned on the European nations and it was no coincidence that Mena stressed that the Common Central American Market was established at the same time as the EEC. Yet so far it had achieved little.

He urged Europe to provide major impetus to get the Common Central American Market off the ground.

Josephus Loeff, deputy director-general

for foreign relations at the Brussels Commission, called cooperation with Central America a focal point of the EEC's development policy.

He said that about half of the Community's aid for Latin America went to Central America.

The EEC Council of Ministers had increased the Community's aid for Central America by DM65m to DM250m in 1982.

The emphasis is on agricultural development and structural reforms, and efforts to improve the current account balances, he said.

He dampened excessive Latin American expectations by pointing to the Community's strained budget and to the fact that international aid could never amount to more than help towards self-help.

The concrete result of the Brussels meeting was to agree on holding additional meetings on expert levels when practical project possibilities are to be evaluated.

Financing issues within an IMF framework was to have been discussed at the annual IMF meeting in Washington. Another meeting is to be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, next March at the latest in conjunction with the government meeting of the Interamerican Development Bank.

Wolf-Dietrich Stahnke

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 28 September 1983)



## Stoltenberg defence of loan terms

## Frankfurter Rundschau

The tough terms the International Monetary Fund (IMF) attaches to loans to developing countries should not be misinterpreted as such, according to the Bonn Finance Minister.

Bonn Finance Minister Gert Stoltenberg says that the IMF terms are much criticised in the World as a means to protect the monetary and economic growth.

Stoltenberg, speaking at the conference in Washington, argued against excessive pessimism about the world-wide, the IMF situation and the general help adjustment.

He emphasised his concern about US budget deficits. These are a main reason for high interest rates over the world.

He also called for market opening up as developing countries could export to meet their debt.

On the much disputed issue of increased IMF credit facilities for countries in financial trouble, Stoltenberg said that he regarded the "aid package" as justified once the decided increase of quotas for the world banks, thus increasing the lending resources.

In addition, the IMF would have to fall back on the funds provided by the ten leading industrial nations to the General Credit Agreement. Funds have been raised from US\$18.5bn.

The US Congress still opposes the facilitation of the contribution to this means that additional facilities provided for the financially strong countries are made to enable the IMF to meet commitments to the weaker nations.

Stoltenberg called on the other financially strong countries to give support to the IMF in order to maintain international faith in the IMF's capability. He did not mention the IMF by name.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 28 September 1983)

## MONEY

## Snooping for credit information becomes a big business

Looking to find out private information about people's financial situation is becoming a big business. About 100 German firms use credit information agencies to get information.

Anyone who applies for a loan is screened by one of the big credit agencies. It doesn't matter whether the applicant is a businessman or a person. They all go through the same process.

In some cases, the firms use "field agents" to snoop by questioning neighbours. There have been allegations of "stapshot" tactics.

One of the biggest organisations are the *Schufa* (*Schuldengemeinschaft für allgemeine Kreditsicherung*) and *Verband Deutsche Kreditreform e. V.*

The data banks of the Wiesbaden *Schufa* with its branches scattered all over the country contain information on more than 20 million people (almost every German household) "but it is not as well as 23 or 24 million," a member of the management puts it.

Consumer loans of up to 50,000 are screened by *Schufa*. One of the main sources of data is the *Schufa* accounts.

When opening an account, bank customers usually have to sign a statement to the effect that relevant information may be forwarded to the *Schufa*.

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*Schufa*, founded in Berlin in 1927, also has access to customers' accounts with mail order firms and department stores.

Access to *Schufa* information is based on reciprocity, meaning that companies that use *Schufa* must also feed it information on their customers.

Businesses are the target of inquiries also. *Schufa* and its fellow agencies have had a seven per cent rise in inquiries this year.

Another agency, *Schimmelpfeng GmbH* of Frankfurt, says it is Europe's largest.

It says inquiries about businesses are also on the increase because during recession, businesses need more information on other businesses.

"Our economy with its 15,900 insolventcies, falling profits and stagnating sales in 1982 prompted a growing number of small companies to resort to this type of information."

"When liquidity is strained unpaid bills can easily bust a business. It is above all the smaller firms that suffer huge interest losses due to customers who drag their feet when it comes to paying their bills."

The credit information section employs 1,414 people, of whom 90 work at the Nuremberg branch.

Every new staff member undergoes a six to nine-month training period. This applies particularly to field workers who interview companies and are *Creditreform*'s most important source of information.

Many companies quite willingly permit *Creditreform* to look at their balance sheets. But, as one organisation employee puts it, "there are always some who have tall tales to dish out."

As a result, the credit information agencies resort to methods less direct than asking a company for information about itself.

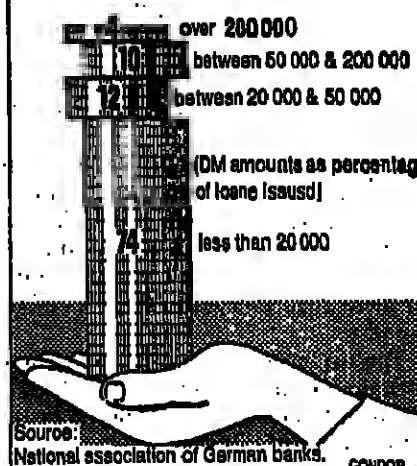
Field workers interview suppliers, business partners and neighbours. There is nothing the victims of this snooping can do because the courts consider this practice legitimate.

Another source of information is the companies register. Every company on record goes into the credit information data banks. The Nuremberg branch of *Creditreform* has two to three employees whose only job is to update this sort of information.

Asked about other sources of information, a *Creditreform* spokesman

## Small loans, big numbers

Value of private bank loans in 1982



Source: National association of German banks, Cologne

says: "We must see what the possibilities are in each individual case."

One of these possibilities is to ask the person's employer. Another source of information is government authorities, but there are problems with data abuse regulations.

Critics of the credit information system also point to the invasion of privacy by data abuse, saying that the catchphrase "man of glass" has long been a reality.

Some point to the fact that much of that which the opponents of the census and the new ID card are trying to prevent has been a general practice in the credit information business for years.

But the business operates within the law. The federal act governing the protection of personal data permits the "storing of these data providing there is no reason to assume that this invades the legally protected privacy of the person concerned."

Section 34 offers a bit of balm. It reads: "The person concerned can demand to see all data stored about him." Section 35 states: "Incorrect personal data must be rectified. They may not be divulged if the person concerned denies their correctness and if this can be neither proved nor disproved."

The statement regarding *Schufa*'s bank customers now have to sign provides the address of the local branch of the organisation, where the customer can demand access to data stored about him.

The question as to liability in case of wrong information is still unclear.

It will never be known how many businessmen were unable to obtain needed supplies due to wrong information, how many consumers were denied a bank loan and how many job applicants were turned down (some personnel departments cooperate with *Schufa* on a reciprocity basis).

Wolfgang Mayer

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 10 September 1983)

## Changes along the border

Continued from page 4  
political, ideological and psychological brainwashing of the border troops has evidently not been enough for the East Berlin leadership.

It has become known that the research and development departments of the Zeiss works in Jena and the Technical University in Dresden have been working for the past five years on a new "security and defence system" to prevent sabotage by East Germany's own population against what in East German official parlance is called the "anti-fascist bulwark."

A laser system that responds only to the human body is to be introduced into the already formidable intra-German border.

It is still unknown whether this is to be used as a mere alarm system or whether it will be equipped to kill. The border guards are still under orders to "detect, arrest and if necessary destroy border violators, be it with or without the help of technology."

And they are still under orders to "hit the target with the first shot."

Werner Kahl and Ingo Urban

(Die Welt, 29 September 1983)







## ■ THE ENVIRONMENT

## Tougher waste-disposal controls approved

The Federal Republic of Germany is probably Europe's largest producer of waste.

The Federal Cabinet has just approved tougher regulations for dealing with special waste.

Federal Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann is hoping that further parts of the amendment, which deal among other things with recycling, will also be accepted by the Cabinet before the year is out.

Special waste is defined as such waste which "depending on the nature, composition or amount" presents a "serious" danger to health, the water and the air, can burn or explode and which contains germs.

Up to now there has been no standard procedure in individual German States for disposing of special waste.

If the concentration of harmful substances is regarded as harmless, the extent of risk as acceptable, and a proper disposal as "uneconomical", the toxic substances are allowed to legally flow into the seas and rivers.

Up until the year 2024, for example, the Beyer company in Brunsbüttel is to be allowed to pour 75,000 cubic metres of industrial waste into the River Elbe every hour, without being obliged to say what is in the waste.

Mixed with sand, for example, highly toxic waste can find its way into the household waste as "solvent-content waste."

Some waste products are simply declared "economic goods" and are thus not subject to any waste disposal regulations.

One aim is to prevent the latter, at least for certain dangerous substances.

## Drinking water 'under threat'

Scientists believe that there is a worldwide threat to the quality of drinking water.

Pollution is increasing, delegates to a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) conference in Koblenz heard.

The 350 scientists from 50 countries dealt with the problems of water shortage and the danger to the earth's ground water stocks.

Hydrologists confirmed that ground water is still not treated with sufficient care.

Many agricultural areas are overfertilised and many farmers tend to use too much manure at the wrong times.

Even farmyard manure and liquid manure pose a threat to ground water: "Everything the yard produces", said one speaker, flows in winter on frozen ground into other water channels and thus into the ground water.

Today's concrete jungles make it more and more difficult for surface water to seep into the ground. Ground water stocks cannot be replenished.

dpa  
(Köln: Stadt-Anzeiger, 31 August 1983)

Specially equipped customs checkpoints are to be set up on the various national borders to make it easier to uncover some of the tricks of international waste disposal "tourism."

This is a direct — and positive — consequence of the scandal surrounding the barrels of toxic waste from Seveso.

By introducing a "recycling law", Zimmermann hopes to prevent the waste of raw materials.

However, the reservation that such recycling must be "economically viable" may present too large a loophole for the throw-away fanatics.

The Federal government has not yet taken up suggestions by Hesse's Minister for the Environment to make use of the existing laws to ban the production of certain poisonous materials.

For example, there are restrictions on the use of butyltin on the production of the highly toxic PCB, polychlorinated biphenyl, which can be used as a refrigerator and is a base material for dioxins, the Seveso poison.

Zimmermann is going for "a better control over certain used oils" — including those which contain PCB.

Even pesticides which are banned in the Federal Republic because of their danger can still be produced and exported to Third World countries.

According to estimates by the World Health Organisation, there are over half a million cases of intoxication there every year.

Despite bad experience to the contrary, the West German government still believes in the protestations of trade circles and encourages returnable bottles instead of the one-way packaging.

European steps towards protecting the environment were outlined at a meeting in Karlsruhe.

EEC Commissioner Karl-Heinz Narjes said it is planned to control large-scale industrial furnaces.

He also announced an emergency programme to control atmospheric pollution.

Bonn's Minister for Research and Technology, Heinz Riesenhuber, urged delegates to do all they could to recognise and fight damage to the environment.

The international dimension of environmental problems, he said, is underlined by the damage to the forests to be observed throughout Europe.

"In view of the open airspace over Europe," he said, "we can only solve our environmental problems if we work together closely and in mutual trust."

Alongside air pollutants, in particular sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, heavy metals and photo-oxidants, factors of dryness, frost, biotic damage, and forest planning must be taken into account.

Riesenhuber continued: "We must pool the information we already have so that we can then coordinate these results and put things into practice."

In view of the many questions still unanswered and the dramatic development of environmental problems, Riesenhuber asked the 700 delegates from 18 western nations to conduct an open discussion. There were no representatives from the Soviet bloc countries.

EEC Commissioner Narjes said the main problems facing European envi-

The local communities are left to face the problems. However, within the framework of the amendment, Zimmermann will be taking a closer look at the problems of packaging. Regulations are needed here as voluntary agreements don't work.

Experience has shown that harmful substances can be poisonous in lower dosages than the official "limits."

This was pointed out recently with regard to air pollution by the Bavarian minister for the Environment, Dick.

The burning of waste material, a method preferred in Bavaria, cannot be the right way.

Zimmermann is also taking a look at other European countries. Yet there is also plenty of toxic material which comes from Germany.

Each year hundreds of thousands of tons of waste are transported by heavy transporters from the Federal Republic to a special waste disposal site in Schöneberg, near Lübeck, in East Germany.

## Water risks

As a special report by the Bremen Environmental Institute confirmed in summer this year some of this toxic waste finds its way back into West Germany via the groundwater.

West Germany itself has enough problems with its waste disposal sites, even with the "well-kept" ones.

There are at least 45,000 (estimate by the Federal Environmental Agency) old rubbish tips and waste disposal sites in West Germany, a kind of ticking time bomb.

The success of new legislation will have to be measured in terms of the extent to which waste is prevented and not merely disposed of, recycled or burnt.

Martin Urban  
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 21 September 1983)

## Europe reveals plans to cut pollution

Environmental policies could be tackled successfully. The discussion about the introduction of unleaded petrol in the Federal Republic showed that.

Negotiations with the Japanese motor industry, on the other hand, were proving more difficult.

Even though many problems could be solved in these discussions, the European Community should not resort to protectionist measures on the car market.

Narjes is hoping that a European overall solution, the Erga project, will bring about a further breakthrough on reducing car pollution.

The project's report on pollutant emissions from cars is to be presented to the European Commission at Easter 1984.

As Narjes underlined there is also research into the effects of reducing car emissions on the refining costs, energy costs and the motor industry itself.

In the meantime, Narjes urged the EEC member states to reduce the lead content of their petrol to 0.15 milligrams per litre.

He announced that a European regulation on large-scale furnaces is to be presented in November. This will mean that industrial plants throughout Euro-

## Cleaner air THE ARTS

## cash saving the ballet companies: an armchair assessment

Financial benefits of a reduction of air pollution would be the cost of achieving the targets at an environmental level.

The meeting was convened by the Aspen Institute to deal with the problem of dying forests.

According to an OECD survey, halving of the emissions from power plant stacks as well as car exhausts would be a tremendous benefit gained without too much cost.

And this study does not take into account the enormous costs of the forests.

There were 27 delegates from countries including Poland, Czechoslovakia. They appealed to the Geneva Convention to begin reducing sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide emissions. They agreed, it was agreed, is available.

However, the President of the German Environmental Agency, Lersner, underlined during the conference that there is a limit to the reduction of emissions which is much lower than the standard.

Although there is still a great deal of research to be done on the relationship between pollution of the air and the dying forests, this is used as an alibi for doing nothing.

It was important that the forests which have not yet been fully destroyed take preventive action.

In the end, it was cheaper to pollute at the right time, West Germany had failed to do so. (Der Tagespiegel, 18 September 1983)

po will be subject to official All measures must be undertaken to reduce emissions.

In the draft version, ceilings for the known pollutants in the large-scale furnaces serve as a guide.

A limited operating licence is granted for plants which have been approved of. The older plants have to be examined to check demolition possibilities.

In some cases, the plants will be a transitional period of ten years before being closed down.

Together with these suggestions, Narjes announced the pre-emptive European emergency programme to combat the pollution of the atmosphere.

Alongside quality targets for sulphur dioxide and dust, new limits on sulphur content of smaller medium-scale industrial furnaces are also to be regulated in an EC directive.

The burning and disposal of waste is also to be regulated in an EC directive.

The Commissioner also announced greater research efforts in Europe during the coming weeks.

Commission will be providing support for about 40 research projects about DM10bn.

A further DM10bn are earmarked for environmental research in 1985.

(Handelsblatt, 20 September 1983)

The top companies are as follows: the German Opera ballet company from Berlin, the Hamburg State Opera ballet company, the Cologne Dance Forum, the Stuttgart ballet company, and the Wuppertal Dance Theatre.

If the number of tours over the past few years is taken as a yardstick, these companies represent West German ballet "outside" of the Federal Republic.

The Berlin German Opera ballet company, for example, put on 30 performances in the United States during the 1980/81 season.

The Hamburg company appeared 23 times in Holland, Belgium and South America during the same period.

The Cologne group managed 26 performances in Sweden, France, England, Holland and Switzerland.

The Stuttgart company was runner-up with 44 performances in Sofia, the United States, Canada, Mexico and England.

Pina Bausch and her Wuppertal company take a clear lead with 55 appearances in South America, Mexico, Italy, Israel, Holland and France.

The frontrunners showed their strength even more during the following season.

The Berlin company had no guest performances at all, and the Cologne group only managed eight in Brussels, Gent, Ljubljana, Belgrade, Luxembourg and Sofia.

John Neumeier and his Hamburg company at least had 17 evening and 2 workshop matinee performances in ci-

ties such as Paris, Leningrad, Luxembourg and Lausanne.

The Stuttgart ballet company, which made its way to Rome and Winterthur, was supported in its success by the season's tour of South America (Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Santiago de Chile, Sao Paulo, Montevideo).

However, those company's 24 performances still couldn't compete with the 35 performances by the Wuppertal group in Paris, Vienna, Australia and Holland.

The Wuppertal Dance Theatre also showed a lead for the 1982/83 season: 43 performances in London, Rome, Brussels, Paris and Milan, not to mention visits to France and Switzerland.

For the first time, however, the Hamburg company moves in close behind with 32 ballet evenings and three workshop matinees in New York, Paris and Venice.

The Cologne and Berlin companies still exhibit a meagre yield with two performances in Bucharest and four performances in San Antonio/Texas respectively.

The Stuttgart company really slipped down a peg. Marcia Haydean team recorded only fifteen performances in Prague, Salzburg and Paris.

Is this cause for concern? A changing trend? According to the press spokesman for the Stuttgart ballet company, Rainer Wolhsy, not at all.

He puts the slack period down to the lack of financial backing, which is particularly important to a large company like the Stuttgart one. Many invitations to perform, therefore, simply had to be turned down.

Rainer Wolhsy refers to a certain curiosity gap with regard to the Hamburg company. The Stuttgart company is already known everywhere.

Although this sounds plausible, two other reasons are just as valid.

Hartmut Regitz  
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 10 September 1983)

The squabbling about American film packages for the German TV audience, and the accompanying million-mark legal suit, has recently put the spotlight on the purchasing policies of West German TV companies.

The subsidiary of the ARD television company, for example, Degeto (Frankfurt) has not only been busy buying material for presentation in the near future, but "panic-buying" for the 1990s.

Each year it buys 180 feature films from all over the world, just as many TV series and about 200 other TV productions.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Bild und Ton (Organisation for Picture and Sound) has an annual budget of DM65m at its disposal.

In the face of expected price increases for films in the wake of new media developments, it feels obliged to buy now while the prices are still low.

This is a plausible argument. The purchasing prices for films have increased since the mid-seventies at a faster rate than the general rate of inflation — namely, from an average DM120,000 to an average DM140,000, a fact pointed out in Munich by the deputy manager of Degeto, Franz Everschor.

Of the 40,000 films selected over the years, Degeto chose 10,000 of them.

On average, four feature films are shown each day on German TV. ARD, the first channel, presented 262 films in 1982, the ZDF, the second channel 257, and the various (regional) third programmes 855.

The feature film boom on German TV channels is unbroken. As Everschor pointed out to a study group on broad-

## TV buys films while (cheap) stocks last

casting history in Munich, "the films are still right at the top of the popularity ratings".

This wasn't always the case. The foundations were laid during the 1960s. Today, twelve per cent of total TV programmes are feature films.

The series put on by the ARD and ZDF, *Das Filmfestival* (The festival of films) and *Der besondere Film* (The special film), have increased popularity.

In a move away from the classic Hollywood or sentimental *Helmut* films (films produced in an idealised regional setting), the film editors wanted to see whether a blend of entertainment and quality could attract even more viewers. And attracted they were.

Even the third programmes, which used to be reserved for experimental film productions, many of them with subtitles, now show first-rate material.

The viewers are being given more and more say in what is to be shown on TV. Heinz Rühmann can be seen alongside François Truffaut, Louis de Funès alongside Luis Buñuel.

The indicators of this move feel that they deserve the credit for improving the viewing figures for directors such as Ernst Lubitsch, Bernardo Bertolucci or Claude Chabrol.

The cat-and-mouse game between the

film and TV, the "feud between hostile brothers", is likely to continue now that the whole media structure, from cable TV to video, is changing.

The purchasing-policy problems are just a sign of these changing times.

Even countries rich in film tradition, such as Britain and Italy, are noticing a drop in standards. The effects take longer before they are felt in the relatively inexperienced Federal Republic of Germany. The rarities from the more off-beat nations cannot fill the gap.

The big US companies are producing fewer and fewer films which have an ever-increasing budget.

Everschor, who was unwilling to go into great details on account of the ongoing negotiations for a film package, feels that it's better to go straight to the producer. Middlemen, such as the prosecuting party in the current legal dispute, *Taurus Film Munich*, should only be used if they can offer attractive film packages put together from different sources.

The Munich-based communications researcher, Wolfgang R. Langenbucher, tries to straighten the picture out somewhat by modifying the positive influence of TV on films.

Despite more leisure time, less people go to the cinema. If there was for some reason no TV, there would be a sharp increase in cinema-going.

Langenbucher feels that only the fact that the amount of leisure time has increased along with increasing TV viewing has saved the cinema and newspaper media from being displaced altogether.

dpa  
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 20 September 1983)



Pina Bausch... clearly in the lead numerically.  
(Photo: Hannes Kilian)

John Cranko's choreographies, which used to be the Stuttgart company's real crowd pullers, have now become general international property. Any ensemble that wants to be successful has to include them. You don't have to go to a guest performance to see them any longer.

A second reason may well be the failure of the Stuttgart company to develop new ideas and prevent the threatening disinterest of part of its audience.

If the announcements by the ballet management is to be believed, all this will change in the near future.

Maybe the Stuttgart performers will be in demand again, perhaps the financial problems will be solved.

Although a look in the mirror can present a slightly distorted image of reality it often triggers new ideas on how to change that image.









Hans Müller... a long march.  
(Photo: Uli Franz)

A German, Hans Müller from Düsseldorf, has been made a member of China's People's Congress, the nation's parliament.

The People's Congress has several thousand members who are appointed rather than elected. It is not so much the general assembly but the various committees that have a certain leeway in putting forward recommendations, though even the committees can make no policy decisions.

Visitors in Peking who take the trouble to climb a small hill just north of the "Forbidden City" (the Imperial Palace) will look down on a rather ordinary looking residential area that in no way betrays the fact that it has been set aside for China's VIPs.

One of the residents there is strongman Deng Xiaoping; and only a stone's throw away, behind a red lacquered wooden door, lives Hans Müller in a rather large house (as houses in China go). The inner courtyard has been artfully stylized into a Japanese garden — the work of Müller's Japanese wife.

The living room with its Chinese furniture is sparsely decorated with Asian art.

Speaking helter-skelter, like somebody who finds it difficult to talk about himself, Hans Müller says he ultimately owes his membership in the People's Congress to Hitler, from whom he fled to China. But he is far from an ordinary emigrant.

Born in Düsseldorf in January 1915 while his father was at the front, Müller would probably still be living there if the Nazis had not been swept to power in 1933.

His father was a Jew, so Müller was not allowed to go to university. So he went to Basel, in Switzerland, in the autumn of 1933 and enrolled at the medical school.

"I didn't think Hitler would stay in power for more than a couple of months," he says.

In January 1939, when Hitler had already gobbled up Czechoslovakia and Müller had just received his medical degree, he came to realize that there was little likelihood of any resistance against the Nazis in Europe.

He decided to go somewhere where Hitler was still being fought. But since the Spanish Civil War was almost over, this left him with China, which was still fighting against Japan, an Axis power.

Through friends, he managed to establish contact with Mao's army, and a little while later he boarded a French ship in Marseilles to sail to Hong Kong. "It was a pleasant three-week voyage," he says.

It took months by ship, train and lorry to get from Hong Kong to the Chinese army. But the army he wound up with was Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

# A German at the court of the mandarins

They tried to lure the young doctor into joining their own Red Cross, but Müller was revolted by the corrupt Kuomintang officer corps.

Although they kept a close watch on him, he managed to get away and eventually reached Yunnan where Mao's troops had their headquarters. His arrival caused a sensation.

Nobody cared much about ideology in those days. As Müller sees it looking back on that time, "all that mattered was that I was against Hitler. I myself was not interested in politics, except that I didn't like Hitler."

He started off working in a Yunnan hospital but found this work "too peaceful". He asked to be sent to the front. This meant another journey by lorry, on horseback or on foot across the Yellow River and through the Japanese lines before reaching the liberated areas in the mountains.

Müller, who had brought his surgical kit with him from Switzerland, was appointed army surgeon.

He had to operate under the worst of conditions, mostly working in peasant huts. His assistants and orderlies were 11 to 14-year-old boys, most of them orphaned by fleeing Japanese troops.

The hardships would have been unbearable to anybody who did not see a deeper meaning behind them.

The food consisted mainly of millet and a bit of vegetables on high days and holidays.

There were thousands of wounded and hundreds of thousands died.

Man's army was so poorly equipped that it usually cost two lives in capturing one rifle.

One day, Müller was caught in a Japanese ambush. He managed to save his skin but lost his surgical kit.

He fled and fell ill with typhoid and dysentery. This was compounded by poor food and headquarters decided to order him back to Yunnan.

It was there that Mao invited him to lunch.

Müller: "He sat almost silently, leaving the talking to me. He wanted to know exactly where I came from, what I thought about the war — both in China and in Europe. It was always I who had to do the talking."

At that time he also met Deng Xiaoping, with whom he frequently played bridge after the war.

Deng was the political commissar of a 300,000-man division which was in Müller's medical care.

It was Müller who taught Deng bridge and the two neighbours still play a game from time to time.

They were both heroes of the revolution and victims of the cultural revolution. But Müller's lot was somewhat easier than that of Deng Xiaoping. When the cultural revolution came he — a professor by then — stayed aloof and survived it without humiliation.

Since Müller's original intention was to stay only until the war against Hitler was over, he tried to enlist American help in getting home in 1945.

But the Americans barred the doctor of Mao's Red Army from his home country.

He nevertheless left the army. He was given two horses and one man as an escort and set off on the long trek home via Russia.

They were under way for months, getting almost as far as Inner Mongolia — constantly forced by enemy troops to make detours.

In the end, his Chinese friends no longer found it hard to talk him into staying after all — at least until the victory over the Nationalist troops.

The victory came in 1949. But until then he had had to run from the enemy time and again. On one occasion, he was joined by a Japanese nurse, an Imperial Army straggler.

"She captured me," says Müller wryly of his wife.

By 1949 he had spent ten years fighting with Mao's troops, becoming fluent in Chinese in the process. His friends asked him to stay and help build up the ravaged nation.

He stayed for what he thought at the time would be "a little while longer," first as the director of a hospital and later as professor of medicine.

He became a Chinese citizen in 1951, and from then on he was given new offices after another. He was appointed dean of a medical school at the age of 38.

He had two children: a son and a daughter.

In 1960, he collapsed from overwork. One year later, he was back at work in charge of Peking's Medical School, an office he still holds.

Through Müller joined the Communist

nist Party at one point, but he remained alien to him.

He views China's position objectively, conceding that it excludes after liberation it remains.

But this, he says, must be a light of what the old China was.

It is impossible to describe the conditions he found when he first came to China. At that time, he says, the country was 25 years poor from hunger were lining the streets.

Today, nobody goes hungry. But he is realistic enough to say that China has a long way to go.

He expects the modernization of the country to take a long time.

He also stresses that the problems to be overcome are not technical but social attitudes of the time.

Modern medicine is too expensive, and the nation will not be able to afford it for many years to come, he says.

Even though he has now become a member of the Chinese People's Congress, he does not think he has been recognized as a full-fledged Chinese. "My nose is too big for me," he says.

It is the big noses and the people who have always made me laugh at them.

The question of whether he is a German or a Chinese is a judgment that may have been influenced by injured vanity. Problem: Max Kruse was a painter and a writer. Only recently a book appeared about his childhood with many unknown drawings.

In later years he became merely a husband of Käthe Kruse.

He had himself taken the trouble to learn the talents of his almost 30-year-old wife: when the first daughter, asked for a puppet in 1905, but he said to his wife.

Käthe Kruse did exactly that. She took a handkerchief filled with sawdust and a potato for the head to create her puppet. The enthusiasm of her father, made Käthe realize that she had a special talent.

Each had real hair, wore typical clothing and above all, all had distinctive facial expression.

She placed great value on facial expressions. Her youngest son, Max, a well-known writer of children's books, writes in a newly released book how almost every night his mother would go into the deserted workshop to look for faults in the finished puppets.

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## LIVING

# The incredible puppet world of Käthe Kruse

Hamburger Abendblatt

The world that Käthe Kruse created was, for many, an intact and nothing: this phantasy world of puppets.

Käthe Kruse's own life, ironically, was some ways the very opposite. She was born 100 years ago as Katharina in Breslau, the illegitimate daughter of a poor Silesian seamstress.

As an adult she deliberately lived a life out of wedlock as a protest against social attitudes of the time. She was married until her third child was born.

It was her talent as a skilled handiworker that led her to the world of puppets.

Opinions vary. In the opinion of her husband, Max Kruse, the puppets were a judgment that may have been influenced by injured vanity. Problem: Max Kruse was a painter and a writer. Only recently a book appeared about his childhood with many unknown drawings.

In later years he became merely a husband of Käthe Kruse.

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Käthe Kruse and her puppets... art or handiwork?

(Photo: Süddeutscher Verlag)

It wasn't her first success in the world of the arts. As a 17-year-old actress she had appeared on the stage under the stage name of Helga Sompin.

But the pull of the handicraft must have been stronger. In 1910 she took part in a competition run by the Berlin department store Tietz. Her puppets enraptured not only the judges but also the Berliners who came to look at the entries. It was clear how Käthe Kruse's life was to change.

She set up shop in a small town called Bad Kösen, near Naumburg in what today is East Germany, where she lived with her seven children.

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# Help en route from jail to freedom

Women who are released from jail generally find the going tougher than men in the same position. Most women find it more difficult to make contacts socially and they are more ashamed of having been imprisoned.

The city of Frankfurt runs a refuge to try and make the adjustment process easier. Its success rate since it was established in 1967 has been astounding.

Four hundred released women have been through the refuge. The relapse rate is only five per cent compared with a national rate of between 50 and 60 per cent.

The refuge centre is a converted shop. It is a place where women can go and talk over their problems both with other former prison inmates or with the staff, who are skilled in various fields.

Work does not end after a normal working day. Staff make follow-up visits in the evenings to see if the women are managing to handle their new life.

Many of the released women find, perhaps for the first time in their lives, that the refuge gives them a reliable contact without making moral judgement.

One staff member said that first contact is normally made in prison six months before release. By the time the big day is due, the relationship has developed into one of trust.

The day of release is both the fulfilment of a wish and a moment of crisis. Anxieties mount. How will they react coming from a world with few responsibilities to one with many?

A refuge worker explains: "It is not only a matter of material things like a place to work and a place to live. It is important that they work out an attainable plan to live by after release."

Relapse is most likely immediately after release. The refuge workers try to nip the problem in the bud. Each woman should be seen each day. Few are able to go straight off to live in a stable environment.

Psychological and social help is given. But the main help is practical. The aim is to get the women to help themselves.

Few, explained the worker, could be allowed to make their way through red tape unaided. They tended to have difficulties dealing with officialdom.

Approaching landlords was an uncomfortable experience. There was the ever present feeling that "decent people" were given preference.

All this involved more work for refuge workers. They must spend more time helping out.

Staff take a strong personal interest in cases. They are prepared without fuss or bother to give up free evenings to see, for example, if a former charge has kept clear of trouble after staying off drugs for a year.

Drug addicts are the biggest problem. They are only looked after at the refuge if they take a cure. The incidence of drug-related offences among women is on the increase.

The refuge is run by the State of Hesse, the